2063. [*Transferred to 19th March, 1993*]

Filling up of vacancies in M.P. High Court

2064. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in December, 1992 the Jabalpur bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court had given a direction for filling up of the vacancies of Judges in Madhya Pradesh High Court to the Central Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action was taken by Government on the said direction with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Free Legal Aid Scheme

2065. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV 'RAVI':
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines issued to the State for providing legal aid to the poor under the Free Legal Aid Scheme;

(b) the list of Free legal cells with the number of persons assisted and the funds allocated under the Scheme during 1991-92 and 1992-93, state-wise;

(c) whether Government have evolved any scheme to strengthen the Free Legal Aid Scheme and widen its scope; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Central Government has constituted a High Powered Committee known as the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes (CILAS) *vide* Resolution dated 26th September, 1980 to formulate in detail and implement comprehensive Legal Aid Schemes on uniform basis.

The CILAS formulated a Model Scheme which contains infrastructure of the Legal Aid organisations. This Model Scheme was forwarded to the State Governments for adoption with such modifications as the local conditions may warrant.

According to Model Scheme, any person whose annual income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 6,000/-, is entitled for legal aid.

This limitation as to income, is however, not applicable in case of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Vimukta Jatis, Nomadic Tribes, women and children.

(b) The following Statements containing information, State-wise, are attached:

(i) Statement I showing the Legal Aid Committees/Cells set up in the States and Union Territories; (*See* below)

(ii) Statement II showing the number of persons assisted through legal-aid and advice during the financial years 1991-92 and 1992-93 out of State funds; (*See* below) and

(iii) Statement III showing the funds allocated by the respective State Government to the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards during the financial years 1991-92 and 1992-93. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 not only enlarges the categories of persons who can be provided free legal aid and advice irrespective of their income ceiling but also enhances the income ceiling from Rs. 6,000/- to Rs. 9,000/- upto High Court and from Rs. 9,000/- to Rs. 12,000/- for Supreme Court cases or such other amount as may be prescribed by the Central Government. The Act has not yet been enforced, as the Amendment Bill, having been passed by the Rajya Sabha is pending consideration of the Loka Sabha.